

Fisher Building

3011 West Grand Boulevard

Local		
State	✓	10/21/75
State Marker	✓	4/20/78
National	✓	6/29/89
National Landmark	✓	6/29/89



The Fisher Building

Photograph by Trizec Properties, Inc.
Courtesy of the National Park Service

Historic overview:

Detroit enjoyed a building boom in the 1920s as a result of the burgeoning automobile industry, and was third nationally in the design and building of skyscrapers. The Fisher building is part of that tradition, and its interior contains some of the most beautiful detailing of any American skyscraper ever built. The Fisher brothers were dedicated to enhancing Detroit, and intended the building to be a public monument as well as an elaborate office and shopping center, at the staggering cost of \$9,000,000 in 1927. The architect, Albert Kahn, had a national reputation for his industrial buildings, but was known in Detroit as well for his commercial, civic and domestic structures. This skyscraper is one of his greatest achievements.

The building's interior arcades are lavishly decorated with forty-four foot barrel vaulted ceilings with murals and gold leafing; forty types of marble in the columns, walls, and floors; Art Deco chandeliers; and bronze elevator doors. The entrance to the Fisher Theater is in the center of the main arcade. This ornate theater originally seated 3000. In 1961 it was renovated and re-stylized, and currently holds 1600.

The Fisher brothers created the closed body of the automobile, transforming it from a seasonal recreation vehicle to a more practical and versatile utility. Eventually Bodies by Fisher was absorbed into the General Motors Corporation, and the three surviving Fishers sold the building in 1962. The Trizec Corporation, Ltd., of Montreal, who meticulously maintains the jewel-like interiors, bought the Fisher Building in 1974.

